

self-reliance and faith in God thrive in abundance today.

It is truly unfortunate anyone finds such attributes offensive. These are the very values our country needs if the new Millennium is to be as prosperous as the present.

Clearly, rural America is the bedrock of our Republic. Before more of Washington's elite determine otherwise, they would do well to check their facts, consider the farmer, and possibly even say a word of thanks before supper.

LEWIS AND CLARK EXPEDITION
BICENTENNIAL COMMEMORATIVE
COIN ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. BARON P. HILL

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 19, 1999

Mr. HILL of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I want to offer my support for H.R. 1033, the Lewis and

Clark Expedition Bicentennial Commemorative Coin Act.

This bill will authorize the Department of the Treasury to mint 500,000 one-dollar coins to commemorate the bicentennial of the Lewis and Clark Expedition.

Mr. Speaker, many people don't realize it, but the expedition of these historic partners began at the Falls of the Ohio, in southern Indiana.

In October of 1803, Meriwether Lewis and William Clark joined with other explorers at the Falls of the Ohio to set off on their journey to explore the Louisiana Purchase. The crew departed on October 26, 1803, thus marking Clarksville, Indiana as the actual point of origin for the Lewis and Clark Expedition. From there, the Explorers' remarkable adventures spanned over 8,000 miles of unknown land.

Mr. Speaker, the residents of southern Indiana are proud of this heritage. Currently the three communities of Jeffersonville, Clarksville and New Albany are working together to build the Ohio River Greenway—an extensive project to revitalize the southern Indiana river-

front. The intended completion date for this project is set for 2003, just in time for these three communities to come together in celebration of the 200 year anniversary of the beginning of the Lewis and Clark Expedition.

This bill will help highlight the extraordinary expedition by Lewis and Clark and will provide support for the National Lewis and Clark Bicentennial Council and the National Park Service in efforts to plan and organize events to commemorate the bicentennial of this historic expedition.

And no commemoration would be complete without noting southern Indiana's part in the Lewis and Clark story. I encourage all Americans wishing to retrace the steps of the explorers or to learn more about the importance of the expedition to our nation, to visit the Falls of the Ohio and surrounding area.

I am proud that Congress is taking the initiative to promote and support the commemoration of such a remarkable piece of our American history.